

Boston and Albany Railroad Station
Auburndale
Middlesex County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-665

HABS
MASS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

BOSTON AND ALBANY RAILROAD STATION

HABS
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Location: Auburndale, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. 1-

Present Owner: Boston and Albany Railroad, South Station, Boston, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Owner.

Present Use: In limited use as a passenger station.

Brief Statement of Significance: Commissioned in 1881, this is the first station designed by H. H. Richardson for the Boston and Albany Railroad. Henry Russell Hitchcock in The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times has described this station as "the best he ever built."

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Boston and Albany Railroad.
2. Date of erection: Commissioned in 1881.
3. Architect: Henry Hobson Richardson. This was the first of several stations designed by Richardson for the Boston and Albany Railroad. Henry Russell Hitchcock in The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times says that Richardson designed this one personally, but that the later ones which Hitchcock calls inferior, were probably designed by his office staff with little attention from Richardson. Several stations, similar in design and built along the same routes after Richardson's death, were designed by his successors, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge.
4. Sources of information: Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr., The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times (New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936), pp. 224-225, 263, 266.

B. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: Boston and Albany Railroad archives, South Station, Boston, Massachusetts.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This suburban station is a small, one-story building with the heavy masonry and dominant

roof characteristic of Richardson's work. It was the first station designed by Richardson for the Boston and Albany Railroad and has been called his best.

2. Condition of Fabric: The building is sound, but dirty and unkempt.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The building is one-story high, about 30' north-south, and about 85' east-west. Entrances from the street are on the south side of the building, and the tracks and platform on the north.
2. Foundations: Smooth, dressed stone.
3. Wall construction: Rough, random ashlar of red and light gray granite.
4. Porches: The roof overhangs to form a porch covering the platform on the east and north sides of the building and continuing beyond the building at the west end. At the east end of the building the roof, slightly arched, continues beyond the southeast corner of the building in a porte-cochere.
5. Chimneys: There is a large stone chimney at the center of the building of rough, random ashlar.
6. Openings: Door and window openings have flat stone lintels and are finished with rough faced, long meadow stone. Raised panel doors have five wide panels arranged one above the other. Windows are double hung with single light top sash, and either single or double light lower sash.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip roof covered with composition shingles. The roof originally was covered with red tile.
 - b. Eaves: Open eaves with exposed rafters. Where the roof projects to form the porch, it is supported on plain brackets or wood posts. The eave line runs unbroken around the entire building including the extended porch on the west end and the arched porte-cochere at the southwest corner.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: The building is symmetrical with two waiting rooms, one for men and one for women, on either side of centrally placed baggage room and ticket office. The ticket office, on the north side of the building, extends on to the platform in a projecting bay.
2. Flooring: 3-1/4" wide boards.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are covered with brick to about 5'-6". The walls above the brick and the ceiling are covered with matched boarding. On the walls, the boarding has a molded pattern at the joints, and is run vertically. Cased beams are exposed under the ceiling boards.
4. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are five-panel doors similar to the exterior doors. Door frames have flat faces, beaded edges, and mitered corners.
5. Trim: Brick areas of the walls are terminated at the tops, and at the sides at door and window openings, with torus, or half-round brick moldings.
6. Hardware: Most of the original hardware survives. Doors have round knobs and butt hinges.
7. Lighting: Electric.
8. Heating: The building originally had central heating with registers. A modern unit heater has been installed in the west waiting room.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The building is located on a large lot with tracks on the north, and with driveways and parking area on the south.
2. Walks, driveways: Concrete and asphalt.
3. Landscaping: Informal landscaping with lawn, large trees and shrubs.

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Society for the Preservation of New
England Antiquities
Boston, Massachusetts - January 1960
AND
Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service - March 1961